

Expedited Processing

Appl. No.: 10/718,638

Office Action Dated: May 27, 2009

Amendment Dated: June 11, 2009

DO NOT ENTER: /CK/ (06/16/2009)

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for manufacturing a distal protection element for preventing emboli in a blood vessel from moving away from a treatment site during a vascular procedure, the method comprising:

braiding a plurality of filaments to form an enclosure;

forming the braided enclosure to have a first end region and a second end region, each of the first and second end regions having a taper region and a neck region adapted for attachment to a guidewire; and

after the step of braiding, reducing a thickness of the filaments forming the braided enclosure along at least a portion of the first end region.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising: heat treating the filaments of the braided distal protection element.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The method of claim 2, wherein the heat treating step is performed prior to the reducing step.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the heat treating step is performed after the reducing step.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the distal protection element is a capture element.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the distal protection element is an occluder.

Claim 7 (canceled).

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Claim 8 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step comprises electropolishing at least one of the filaments along at least a portion of the filament.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step comprises etching at least one of the filaments along at least a portion of the filament.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein the etching step is selected from the group consisting of photo etching, chemical etching and laser etching.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step comprises acid pickling at least one of the filaments along at least a portion of the filament.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step comprises mechanically grinding at least one of the filaments along at least a portion of the filament.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step comprises cutting and removing a portion of at least one of the filaments along the first end region.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the filaments comprise nitinol wires.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): The method of claim 1, wherein the filaments comprise drawn-filled tubing wires.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method of claim 15, wherein the reducing step comprises removing an outer casing of at least one of the drawn-filled tubing wires along at least a portion of the wire.

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Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method of claim 15, wherein the reducing step further comprises etching a core of at least one of the drawn-filled tubing wires.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the filaments comprise a combination of nitinol wires and drawn-filled tubing wires.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the filaments are made of material selected from the group consisting of metal, thermoplastic polymer, thermoset polymer, ceramics and glass.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step creates a gradual decrease in the thickness of the filaments along at least a portion of the first end region of the braided enclosure.

Claim 21 (withdrawn, previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the reducing step creates a stepped profile in the thickness of the filaments along at least a portion of the first end region of the braided enclosure.

Claims 22-41 (canceled).